



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LENGTHY PRISON TERM GIVEN TO DRUG SMUGGLER

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that 62 year-old Jesus Manuel Guedea-Martinez, from Sabinas, Coahuila, Mexico, was sentenced by United States District Judge Alia Moses Ludlum to 292 months in federal prison. Guedea was found to be the leader of a cocaine smuggling operation and responsible for importing at least 70 kilograms of cocaine into the United States in a six month period.

On April 27, 2007, Guedea and his co-defendant Francisco Antonio Aguirre-Espinoza were convicted by a Del Rio, Texas, jury of possession of cocaine with intent to distribute, importation of cocaine, conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine and conspiracy to import cocaine.

At trial it was shown that on July 25, 2006, Aguirre entered the United States through the Eagle Pass Port of Entry (POE) at the Camino Real Bridge in Eagle Pass, Texas. An inspection revealed several cellophane wrapped packages concealed in the dashboard of the vehicle which contained cocaine. Agents allowed Aguirre through the POE but initiated a surveillance of the vehicle where agents observed Aguirre meeting with Montiel and Rodriguez and turning the vehicle's keys over to them. Rodriguez then drove the vehicle to downtown Eagle Pass where he met with co-defendant Guedea.

Subsequent to the arrest of all the defendants, agents learned from Rodriguez that all the defendants met at Guedea's house and outlined the plan associated with the smuggling and transportation of the narcotics from Mexico into the United States. After the arrests, 18 packages of cocaine were removed from the firewall and dashboard area of Aguirre's vehicle. Rodriguez pled guilty to the conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute and testified at the jury trial. The jury acquitted defendant Montiel, but convicted defendants Aguirre and Guedea. Rodriguez and Aguirre were previously sentenced to 46 and 121 months respectively.

This case was investigated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Eagle Pass, Texas, and was prosecuted for the government by Assistant United States Attorneys Shawn Smith and Jason Schall.

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